ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A phase change optical recording medium having a wide recording power margin and excellent durability to repetitive recording is disclosed. The medium includes a first protective layer, a recording layer, an interface layer, a second protective layer, and a reflective layer, the layers disposed on a transparent substrate, wherein the interface layer includes a mixture of ZrO₂. Preferably, the medium further includes a second interface layer including the mixture of ZrO₂ between the first protective layer and the recording layer. In another preferable aspect, the mixture of ZrO₂ is represented by the following formula:

$$[(ZrO_2)_{100-\alpha}(X)_{\alpha}]_{\beta}(Z)_{\gamma}(ZnS)_{\delta}$$

wherein "X" represents an oxide selected from MgO, CaO, Sc_2O_3 , Y_2O_3 , and CeO_2 ; "Z" represents an oxide selected from TiO_2 , SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , MgO, Ta_2O_5 , and ZnO; " α " is 2-15 mol%; " β " is 40-100 mol%; " γ " is 0-60 mol%; " δ " is 0-60 mol%; and $\beta + \gamma + \delta = 100$ mol%.